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and Quarry Bay is very considerable, and a reservoir could easily be formed among the hills in which a large quantity could be stored. Many of these streams are perennial, and yield a good supply all through the dry season. Whether, however, this water should be given sufficient water to provide for an indefinite growth of population, like the Trianon scheme promises, we are of course unable to say. The cost would certainly be very much smaller than Mr. Pater's scheme, and there can be little doubt that it would suffice for the present wants of the lower levels of the city, while the Pokfulam reservoir would then give the residents on the upper levels a never failing plenitude of water. The merits of this plan deserve investigation at the hands of the Government, and we hope the Surveyor-General may be induced to make it before the matter is finally decided. The colonists are quite willing to pay handsomely for a good supply of water, but if a sufficiency can be obtained from the northern slopes at half the cost of the Trianon project, the money should be saved.

The labour problem is still the question of the hour in the Hawaiian Islands. The contract of about a thousand Chinese labourers expires in October next, and the immigration of Chinese has been suspended. The engagements of a large number of the earlier Portuguese immigrants will also shortly come to an end, and it is not known whether they will be inclined to renew them. The contracts of nearly all the South Sea Islanders will terminate about the same time, and most of them are expected to leave the country. The Kanakas are an ever declining race, and it is regarded as hopeless to look for any considerable contingent of them in the future. Further immigration is expected from the Azores, but the supply from that source must necessarily be limited, as the total population is inconsiderable. A proposal has been made to start a scheme of assisted immigration from Sicily, the inhabitants of which island have been ruined by the recent appalling earthquakes, and now fear that their country is subsiding and will at no distant date sink below the level of the sea. This immigration has been propounded to the Hawaiian Government, and in default of other immigrants they may perhaps import the Sicilians *à la carte*. The Norwegians recently introduced do not like the country, and no other European labouring classes appear inclined to settle in the island kingdom. At present the Chinese form half the labouring population, there being five thousand of them employed on the plantations, and they are preferred by most planters. A return published in the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* shows that 30 planters prefer Portuguese, 37 Chinese, 5 Hindoos, 3 Kanakas, and 1 Swedon or Scotch. The same paper, commenting on the labour question, says:—Our immigration enterprise is indeed encircled on all sides. We are warned against the possible British influence of a Hindoo immigration. An American President has expressed his "concern" about our large Chinese immigration. We are assured that we cannot "bring about a Japanese immigration." We trust only to Portuguese immigration. It is reasonably feared, that the country will become a Catholic colony. And whilst it is now proposed that we look to the Greek island of Scio, recently desolated by earthquake, and welcome its impoverished people, who are fleeing from their ruined homes; we are warned that there "will be danger in the establishment of a Greek church influence; and of our being 'colonized'." What are we to do? asks the *Advertiser*, and sensibly answers the query in the following terms:—"If we can—neither readily or advantageously get any large number of new people, whom we need, we certainly ought to take the best of care of the working strangers whom we have with us, and induce them more and more to do our work. We must not set up any Chinese or Portuguese or other wall of race exclusion. We must rather strive to build a common temple of peace and race brotherhood, where all may unite in harmony together."

Our Honolulu contemporary then goes on to contrast the position and treatment of the Chinese in Hawaii and California. In these islands, says the *Advertiser*, "successful Chinese build handsome houses adorned in the best of taste, in our most fashionable quarters. Chinese invest here in fine horses, and mingle with the best of people on all public occasions. They are at all times in the cabins of our steamers and in all our public conveniences, and very cordial and kindly relations exist between the Chinese and their fellow citizens of Hawaiian and European race. Many plant friegships are known to exist between Europeans and Asiatics. Some Chinese coolies engaged here twelve years ago still continue in the service of kindly and attached employers. Gifts and tokens of kindness are frequent between these 'autogenous' races here." The voice of the Chinese are admitted and the desirability of Chinese immigrants being in fullness compelled to bring their wives and families is strongly dwelt upon. While recognising the drawbacks to Chinese immigration, the planters of Hawaii know how to appreciate the industry and sobriety of the race, and are only too anxious to secure a fresh stream of Chinese immigrants.

The British steamers *Glenfruin* and *Huntingdon* went over to the Compositum and Kowloon docks respectively yesterday.

The Russian corvette *Reef*, Captain Aleksei, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Alabandoff, arrived here yesterday from Saigon, and saluted the port and the Commodore, which salutes were duly returned.

We learn from the Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company that the M. M. steamer *Admiral*, with the post French mail, passed Cape St. James at 5 p.m. on Wednesday last.

The Night Night Shimbun says that the recently taken case of a hold upon the Japanese public that the authorities are making strict investigations in connection with the subject.

The Band of the Buffs will play in the Botanical Gardens this afternoon, commencing at 5 p.m. The following is the programme:—
Overture—"Silence" (Waldteufel).
March—"The Buffs" (St. John).
Waltz—"The Buffs" (St. John).
Polka—"The Buffs" (St. John).
Gigue—"The Buffs" (St. John).
Minuet—"The Buffs" (St. John).
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The British steamer *Douglas*, Captain S. Ashion, which arrived here yesterday morning, is a new vessel for Messrs. Douglas, Lagrange & Co. of Aberdeen, and is of 250 tons and 250-horse power. Her dimensions are 32 feet 6 inches by 24 feet 6 inches, and 23 feet 6 inches deep. Her engines are built on the compound condensing surface system with all the latest improvements. The vessel is schooner rigged and looks like the last production of the same kind. She was built at Plymouth on the 10th March, Port Said 23rd, and cleared the Suez Canal on the 27th. Arrived at Penang on the 10th April and left for Hongkong on the 25th, and arrived here on the 2nd inst. She is bound for the 28th, and left for this port on the 28th.

In Batavia, Chinese receivers of goods stolen from stores apparently do a profitable business by lawing them about at clearing rates, the proceedings being noted in the *Amboina* of the 29th March. "Recently a Chinese hawk was arrested when retelling from house to house choice glass plates at very low rates. These goods were taken from the warehouse of a Chinese merchant who had been taken to the police station. The hawk was brought before the police court. The eleven proved to be from a store here. It is really incredible how many stolen goods are hawked about in Batavia. A pair of splendid *Pavilion* boots which had been offered for sale at 3 guineas per pair, though in the disreputable French store they would usually have cost three times that amount. The trade-mark on the soles had been scratched out."

In his report on the health of Wanchow for the half-year ended 30th September last, Dr. Macdonald has made a most interesting and valuable contribution to the knowledge of the health of the Chinese in the colony. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that the Chinese are not so healthy as they were some years ago. The cause of this is not known, but it is not known whether they will be inclined to renew them. The contracts of nearly all the South Sea Islanders will terminate about the same time, and most of them are expected to leave the country. The Kanakas are an ever declining race, and it is regarded as hopeless to look for any considerable contingent of them in the future. Further immigration is expected from the Azores, but the supply from that source must necessarily be limited, as the total population is inconsiderable. A proposal has been made to start a scheme of assisted immigration from Sicily, the inhabitants of which island have been ruined by the recent appalling earthquakes, and now fear that their country is subsiding and will at no distant date sink below the level of the sea. This immigration has been propounded to the Hawaiian Government, and in default of other immigrants they may perhaps import the Sicilians *à la carte*. The Norwegians recently introduced do not like the country, and no other European labouring classes appear inclined to settle in the island kingdom. At present the Chinese form half the labouring population, there being five thousand of them employed on the plantations, and they are preferred by most planters. A return published in the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* shows that 30 planters prefer Portuguese, 37 Chinese, 5 Hindoos, 3 Kanakas, and 1 Swedon or Scotch. The same paper, commenting on the labour question, says:—Our immigration enterprise is indeed encircled on all sides. We are warned against the possible British influence of a Hindoo immigration. An American President has expressed his "concern" about our large Chinese immigration. We are assured that we cannot "bring about a Japanese immigration." We trust only to Portuguese immigration. It is reasonably feared, that the country will become a Catholic colony. And whilst it is now proposed that we look to the Greek island of Scio, recently desolated by earthquake, and welcome its impoverished people, who are fleeing from their ruined homes; we are warned that there "will be danger in the establishment of a Greek church influence; and of our being 'colonized'." What are we to do? asks the *Advertiser*, and sensibly answers the query in the following terms:—"If we can—neither readily or advantageously get any large number of new people, whom we need, we certainly ought to take the best of care of the working strangers whom we have with us, and induce them more and more to do our work. We must not set up any Chinese or Portuguese or other wall of race exclusion. We must rather strive to build a common temple of peace and race brotherhood, where all may unite in harmony together."

For a considerable time past there has been a strong feeling among the members of the Chinese community who are connected with this port that it was desirable some means of recreation should be provided for them as a body. This colony is indeed behind the times in this respect, for there are no public institutions in several places in the Far East. This feeling seems at last likely to take a definite form, steps having been taken towards starting a kind of club on the lines of the Chinese Club already existing in Hongkong. The project is being carried through, there will be a reading room, library, and billiard room, where the members can pass any spare time they may have. The project is being carried through, there will be a reading room, library, and billiard room, where the members can pass any spare time they may have. The project is being carried through, there will be a reading room, library, and billiard room, where the members can pass any spare time they may have.

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